

Message Text

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53

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 IO-11 L-03

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FM AMEMBASSY NOUAKCHOTT

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LIMITED OFFICIAL USE NOUAKCHOTT 0314

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETEL BPRO MR

SUBJECT: MAURITANIAN INTEREST IN SMALL EARTH STATION

SUMMARY: MAURITANIA HAS EXPRESSED INTEREST IN PURCHASING SMALL EARTH STATION AND IS ALREADY IN TOUCH WITH AMERICAN COMPANY ON MATTER. ABOU DIALEL GUISET, DIRECTOR OF OFFICE OF POSTS AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS (OPT), DISCUSSED THIS PROJECT AND MAURITANIAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS PLANS IN RECENT ARTICLE IN GOVERNMENT-CONTROLLED PAPER. AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN ALSO DISCUSSED EARTH STATION WITH EMBOFF. END SUMMARY.

1. FIRST STEP IN DEVELOPING TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK IN MAURITANIA IS TO LINK UP NOUAKCHOTT WITH MARINE CABLE. GUISET SAID THIS PROJECT, WHICH IS IN PROCESS OF BEING REALIZED, WILL PERMIT MAURITANIA TO SOLVE MANY OF ITS TELECOMMUNICATIONS PROBLEMS. DURING WCNARY VISIT TO NOUAKCHOTT, FRENCH MINISTER OF COOPERATION DESIGNATED MARINE CABLE PROPOSAL AS ONE OF FRANCE'S PRIORITY PROJECTS FOR AIDING MAURITANIA (NOUAKCHOTT 199).

2. GUISET NOTED THAT GIRM IS GIVING CONSIDERATION TO CONSTRUCTION OF SMALL EARTH STATION IN NOUAKCHOTT FOR
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HANDLING INTERNATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS NEEDS BETWEEN

YEARS 1976-1985. GUISSSET SAID INSTALLATION OF STATION WOULD PERMIT RECEPTION IN MAURITANIA, AND SUBSEQUENT DIFFUSION TO INTERIOR, OF FOREIGN TELEVISION PROGRAMS. HE SAID OPT WILL PRESENT REPORT ON THIS PROJECT TO GOVERNMENT IN COMING WEEKS. FOLLOWING APPROVAL BY GOVERNMENT, OPT WILL IMMEDIATELY BEGIN EFFORT TO LOCATE FINANCING.

3. CARL FAFLICK, SENIOR TECHNICAL CONSULTANT, GTE INTERNATIONAL SYSTEMS CORP., AND HENRY BOGUSLAWSKI, PRESIDENT, TELE-PRODUCTS INC., DISCUSSED SMALL EARTH PROJECT WITH EMBOFF LAST WEEK. BOTH REPRESENTATIVES, WHO HAVE BEEN MAKING SWING THROUGH AFRICA, ARE CONVINCED THAT EARTH STATION MAKES SENSE FOR MAURITANIA. THEY PROPOSE TO SELL PACKAGE WHICH CAN BE AIRSHIPPED TO NOUAKCHOTT AND INSTALLED SIX MONTHS AFTER DECISION TO PURCHASE IS MADE. TOTAL COST WILL BE IN RANGE OF \$2 MILLION. ALTHOUGH FAFLICK AND BOGUSLAWSKI DID NOT OBTAIN SIGNED AGREEMENT PRIOR TO DEPARTURE, THEY WERE ENCOURAGED ABOUT PROSPECTS AND INTEND TO RETURN AT LATER DATE. SHOULD GIRM DECIDE TO PURCHASE EARTH STATION, AMERICANS EXPECT GIRM WILL APPLY FOR EXPORT-IMPORT BANK LOAN. AMERICANS ALSO NOTED THAT GIRM MUST MAKE APPLICATION FOR INTELSAT USAGE.

4. ACTION REQUESTED: JUST BEFORE FAFLICK BOARDED PLANE, HE COMMENTED TO EMBOFF THAT ONE OF LAST-MINUTE SNAGS CONCERNED RESPONSIBILITY FOR CONSTRUCTING UNIT TO HOUSE EARTH STATION. GTE PREFERS TO LOCATE EARTH STATION IN STRUCTURE BUILT BY HOST GHVERNMENT. GIRM APPARENTLY INDICATED IT WANTS AMERICAN COMPANY TO HANDLE ALL ASPECTS OF PROJECT. WE URGE THAT DEPARTMENT MAKE FOLLOWING ADVICE AVAILABLE TO FAFLICK, WHO CAN BE REACHED AT WALTHAM, MASS., TELEPHONE 617-890-9200. HOUSING STRUCTURE FOR EARTH STATION BUILT BY GIRM WILL PROBABLY NOT MEET ENVIRONMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS REQUIRED FOR THIS KIND OF SOPHISTICATED EQUIPMENT. CONSTANT DUST, EXCESSIVE HEAT, AND INADEQUATE AIR CONDITIONING MIGHT WELL CAUSE EQUIPMENT TO DETERIORATE MORE QUICKLY THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE THE CASE. FAFLICK SHOULD BE ADVISED, THEREFORE, (A) TO INSURE THAT HOUSING IS BUILT TO COMPANY'S SPECIFICATIONS OR (B) FAILING THAT, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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TO WRITE CONTRACT IN SUCH A WAY AS TO TAKE INTO ACCOUNT VERY HIGH MAINTENANCE COSTS.SHINN

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